

### The Authority of Jesus Questioned

**27** They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him. **28** “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you authority to do this?”

**29** Jesus replied, “I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. **30** John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!”

**31** They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’

**32** But if we say, ‘Of human origin’ ...” (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.)

**33** So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

### The Parable of the Tenants

**1** Jesus then began to speak to them in parables: “A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. **2** At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard.

**3** But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed.

**4** Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. **5** He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed.

**6** “He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’

**7** “But the tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ **8** So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

**9** “What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. **10** Haven’t you read this passage of Scripture:

“‘The stone the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

**11**

the Lord has done this,

and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

**12** Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.

### Questions:

1. Jesus had earlier cleared out those who sold and bought in the temple. What question did the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders ask Jesus?

Why do you think they asked him this question?

2. What question of them did Jesus respond with?

Why could they not give Jesus an answer?

3. The vineyard in this parable represents the nation of Israel and the farmers taking care of the vineyard are the current leaders of Israel who were questioning the authority of Jesus.

Who does the son, whom the owner sent represent in this parable?

4. Who is the stone that the builders rejected?

How will Jesus be rejected?

Explain how Jesus is like the beloved son in the parable?

5. Why did Jesus have to die?

Did it all end in his death? Explain